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No. 81

July 16, 1936

VERTICAL FILE
PHOTOGRAPHED MATERIAL
SEP 3 - 1936
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BETTER WALLS AND CEILINGS

When the Nation-wide survey of farm housing needs was made about a year and a half ago, 146,000 individual owners said their first repairs would be to walls, ceilings, and floors. _____

_____ (agricultural engineer) points out that if the walls have damp places or spots that indicate that the roof or flashings have leaked, the original cause of the damage must be dealt with before anything is done to the wall or the new work will be wasted.

Again, cracks in the walls or ceiling may be due to the house settling on insecure foundations. In this case, extra beams or supports may be necessary. Foundations, _____ says, should extend below the frost line. If exterior walls are damp, they may need furring and insulation.

To point up a crack in plaster, widen it slightly so the filling will hold, fill with a ready-mixed plaster, smooth, and sandpaper. Then the wall is ready to paint or paper. This work can be done by anyone who can work up on a stepladder.

If the walls or ceiling seem hopelessly bad and it is not convenient to undertake complete re-plastering, it may be better to cover them with some sort of wallboard. Some of these materials are ornamental and, while they are rather heavy to handle, it requires but few tools and little skill to nail them in place. Sometimes a paneled or wainscot effect can be made by covering the joinings with narrow vertical battens.

